



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/813,213	03/30/2004	Nicolas Deloge	OSTEONICS 3.0-455	4051
530	7590	05/01/2008	EXAMINER	
LERNER, DAVID, LITTENBERG, KRUMHOLZ & MENTLIK 600 SOUTH AVENUE WEST WESTFIELD, NJ 07090			COMSTOCK, DAVID C	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3733	
			MAIL DATE	
			05/01/2008	PAPER
			DELIVERY MODE	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/813,213	DELOGE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	DAVID COMSTOCK	3733	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2008.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-20 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-4 and 6-20 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 30 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin et al. (7,207,993).

Baldwin et al. disclose a device for repairing a femur comprising a bracket 300 with a portion that extends along a femur and a portion that extends over a proximal region of a greater trochanter (see, e.g., Fig. 10). Adjustable securing means 705 extend through guides in the bracket. The device comprises a threaded securing screw 350 and the securing means comprise elongate flexible cable ties or bands. Baldwin et al. disclose the claimed invention except for explicitly reciting that the bracket could comprise separate arms (i.e. split open bifurcated) or that the device could be formed of a resilient material such as a plastic material. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have formed the bracket in two sections or arms, since it has been held that constructing a formerly integral structure in various elements involves only routine skill in the art. *Nerwin v. Erlichman*, 168 USPQ 177, 179. It also would have been obvious to have formed the device from any of various known materials, including for example plastic, since it has

been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416. Moreover, it would have been further obvious to have located the split section at any desired location on the device, including, for example, intermediate first and second sides of the first portion, since it has been held that mere relocation of features of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70.

Claims 11, 12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baldwin et al. (7,207,993), as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Harwin (5,163,961)

Baldwin et al., as modified, disclose the claimed invention except for explicitly reciting that the screw could be secured to a threaded hole in an end of a femoral implant. Harwin discloses a femoral implant and teaches that a trochanteric region can be secured to a threaded hole in an end of a femoral implant by a screw 9, in order to securely retain the bone in position and reduce the chance of the procedure failing (see, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 1, lines 8-16). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the device of Baldwin, as modified, with a screw passing into an end of a femoral prosthesis, in view of Harwin, in order to securely retain the bone in position and reduce the chance of the procedure failing.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Getscher et al. (3,824,995) in view of Barnes (5,941,881)

Getscher et al. disclose a trochanteric prosthesis comprising a bracket 10 having a portion extending along a femur and a portion 24 extending over a proximal end of a trochanteric region (see, e.g., Fig. 1). The device comprises a free end, e.g., extending from the offset portion 16. The free end comprises a bifurcation (i.e. "split open" section). The device is formed of thin stainless steel, which is resilient (col. 2, lines 42-44). Getscher et al. disclose the claimed invention except for explicitly reciting that the device can be secured with any of various securing means such as cables, clamps, screws, etc., as disclosed by Barnes (see col. 2, lines 65-67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted cables, or the like, for the screws in Getscher et al., or to have used screws to secure the proximal end, in view of Barnes, as this would have amounted to nothing more than the substitution of functionally equivalent securing means known in the art at the time of the invention. It also would have been obvious to have located the split section at any desired location on the device, including, for example, intermediate first and second sides of the first portion, since it has been held that mere relocation of features of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70.

Claims 11, 12 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Getscher et al. (3,824,995) in view of Barnes (5,941,881), as applied to claims 1 and 13 above, and further in view of Harwin (5,163,961).

The device of the combination of Getscher et al. and Barnes discloses the claimed invention except for explicitly reciting that the device could be secured to a threaded hole in an end of a femoral prosthesis by a screw. Harwin discloses using a

femoral implant and teaches that a trochanteric region can be secured to a threaded hole in an end of a femoral implant by a screw 9, in order to securely retain the bone in position and reduce the chance of the procedure failing (see, e.g., Fig. 1 and col. 1, lines 8-16). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have provided the device of Getscher and Barnes, with a screw passing into an end of a femoral prosthesis, in view of Harwin, in order to securely retain the bone in position and reduce the chance of the procedure failing.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Comstock whose telephone number is (571) 272-4710. Please leave a detailed voice message if examiner is unavailable. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eduardo Robert can be reached at (571) 272-4719. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/DC/

/Eduardo C. Robert/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3733